

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for controllably  
5 positioning a work implement of an earth moving  
machine, the work implement including a boom, with  
attachable rack and dump stops each having a physical  
boundary, and an attachment being attached thereto,  
where the boom is actuated by a hydraulic lift  
10 cylinder and the attachment is actuated by a hydraulic  
tilt cylinder, comprising:

implement position sensors that sense the  
elevational position of the boom and the pivotal  
position of the attachment and responsively produce  
15 respective implement position signals;

a controller that receives the implement  
position signals, compares the relative position of  
the boom and the attachment with a pre-determined  
boundary condition, and produces an electrical valve  
20 signal; and

a valve assembly that receives said  
electrical valve signal and controllably provides  
hydraulic fluid flow to at least one hydraulic  
cylinder in response to a magnitude of said electrical  
25 valve signal.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1,  
including at least one look-up table including a  
plurality of implement position values corresponding  
30 to a plurality of scaling values.

3. A method for controllably positioning a work implement of an earth moving machine, the work implement including a boom and an attachment being attached thereto, the work implement including a hydraulic lift cylinder for lifting and lowering the boom and a hydraulic tilt cylinder for dumping and racking the attachment, comprising the steps of:
  - 5 sensing the positions of the lift and tilt cylinders and producing respective implement position signals;
  - 10 receiving the implement position signals and producing an electrical valve signal based on a relative position of the boom and the attachment;
  - 15 comparing the relative positions of the boom and the attachment with a pre-determined boundary position; and
  - 20 receiving the electrical valve signal and controllably providing hydraulic fluid flow to at least one hydraulic cylinder in response to the relative positions of the boom and attachment in comparison with the pre-determined boundary position.

4. The method of claim 12, including the  
25 steps of storing a look-up table that stores a  
plurality of scaling values that correspond to the  
position of the lift and the tilt cylinders.